

What is claimed:

1. A roof-top carrier comprising:  
a resilient support pad having a bottom adapted to rest on the roof and a top;  
either (i) two or more support members extending across the bottom of the support pad or through the support pad situated to retain support-retaining strap gear, or (ii) a support member extending across a long axis of the bottom of the support pad or through the support pad along the long axis, the support members of (i) or (ii), in conjunction with the support-retaining strap gear, retaining the support pad to the roof;  
the support-retaining strap gear; and  
if option (i) pertains, load-retaining strap gear adapted to engage the support-retaining strap at two ends of the support pad to retain a load to the support pad.
2. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, comprising load-retaining strap gear (if not already present) and wherein the load-retaining strap gear comprises a strap and a buckle.
3. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, comprising load-retaining strap gear (if not already present) and wherein the load-retaining strap gear comprises two straps with loops for engaging the support-retaining strap.
4. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear comprises two ring pieces adapted to be situated at each end of the support pad.
5. The roof-top carrier of claim 4, comprising load-retaining strap gear (if not already present) and wherein the load-retaining strap gear comprises two straps with clips for engaging the rings.
6. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein a portion of the support-retaining strap gear adapted to engage the support pad comprises two strap segments sewn together.

7. The roof-top carrier of claim 6, wherein two ring pieces adapted for engaging load-retaining strap gear are retained between the two strap segments at locations adapted to be situated at each end of the support pad.
8. The roof-top carrier of claim 7, wherein the portion of the support-retaining strap gear is retained to the support pad by having the support members retained between the strap segments.
9. The roof-top carrier of claim 7, wherein the straps segments, support pad and support members serve to position the rings on top of the load-retaining strap gear and thereby away from the roof.
10. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear comprises a first strap adapted to engage the support pad and an adjustment strap with buckles affixed at each end, wherein the positioning of the adjustment strap can be adjusted by drawing more of one end of the first strap through one buckle and withdrawing the other end of the first strap from the other buckle.
11. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear is adapted to be situated 5 cm or less from the roof.
12. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear is adapted to be situated 3 cm or less from the roof.
13. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear is adapted to be situated 1 cm or less from the roof.
14. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear is adapted to be situated a distance from the bottom of  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd or less of a distance defined from the bottom to the top.
15. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support members are straps situated in conduits that go through the support pad, and which straps are strapped

around the support pad, wherein the conduits and strapping around acting to prevent a shift in positioning of the support members.

16. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support-retaining strap gear comprises one or more buckles substantially made of plastic.

17. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, comprising load-retaining strap gear (if not already present) and wherein the load-retaining strap gear comprises one or more buckles substantially made of plastic.

18. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support pad comprises a slot adapted to engage a bar of a roof rack.

19. The roof-top carrier of claim 1, wherein the support pad comprises one or more slots for engaging gear to be carried on the roof-top carrier.

20. The roof-top carrier of claim 19, wherein one or more of the gear-engaging slots is adapted to engage a narrow dimension of two skis positioned base-to-base.

21. The roof-top carrier of claim 20, wherein one or more of the gear-engaging slots is adapted to engage rod-like segments of two ski poles, these gear-engaging slots having two channel segments adapted to position the ski poles in the gear-engaging slots.

22. The roof-top carrier of claim 21, wherein the one or more of the gear-engaging slots for skis and the one or more of the gear-engaging slots for poles are adapted to position the skis and poles below the top of the support pad, thereby leaving room on the top of the support pad to position one or more snow boards.

23. The roof-top carrier of claim 22, wherein there is room on the top of the support pad for two snow boards, and wherein the load-retaining strap gear comprises:

a centering strap adapted to be fitted to the roof-top carrier between the locations of the two snow boards; and  
a side strap for each side of the roof-top carrier adapted to engage at one end the support-retaining strap gear at each side of the roof-top carrier, second ends of the side straps or corresponding ends of the centering strap attached to a buckle adapted to secure such ends together.

24. The roof-top carrier of claim 23, wherein the support-retaining strap gear comprises two rings, and the side straps comprise clips for engaging the rings.

25. The roof-top carrier of claim 24, wherein the roof-rack carrier comprises a centering strap-securing-strap strapped around the support pad and securing the centering strap, which centering strap-securing-strap can serve as a third support member.

26. The roof-top carrier of claim 19, wherein one or more of the gear-engaging slots is adapted to a reel and a portion of a pole of a rod and reel.

27. The roof-top carrier of claim 19, comprising a horizontal slot adapted to fit a surfboard, sailboard, snowboard, kiteboard or similarly shaped item.

28. The roof-top carrier of claim 27, wherein the horizontal slot is interior to the resilient support pad and accessible by a lateral slot that can be secured in a closed position by the support-retaining strap gear or load-retaining strap gear.

29. A method of securing boating gear while carrying the boat on a carrier, the method comprising:  
securing a portion of the boat to the carrier with a strap that comprises two affixed rings, the securing locating the rings to two separate locations relative to a center line of the boat; and  
securing the mast or mast and folded sail between the rings with strapping gear.